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Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I hereby certify that I have information and a reasonable basis for belief that this paper will be deposited as first-class mail with the United States Postal Service on January 24, 2005 in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

*Rjh*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

*1-24-05*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re patent application of:

Mashayekhi, et al.

Application No.: 09/978,239

Filed: October 15, 2001

For: System and Method for State  
Preservation in a Stretch Cluster

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Group No. 2113

Examiner: Christopher S. McCarthy

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 2111**

**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION MAILED NOVEMBER 23, 2004**

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

In response to the Office Action mailed November 23, 2004, Applicants submit this response and respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's objections and rejections. Applicants note that this response was mailed on Monday, January 24, 2005. January 23, 2005 was a Sunday, and January 24, 2005 is the first business day following January 23, 2005.